



Idaho State Historical Society

SHPO

Information updated Monday, January 07, 2008

Note!

Hard copies of the publications referenced below can be printed from this site. Anyone unable to access these publications can request hard copies by calling the SHPO office at 1-208-334-3861.

[National Register of Historic Places](#)
[Historic & Archaeological Sites Inventories](#)
[Certified Local Governments](#)
[Preservation Planning](#)
[Tax Incentive Program](#)
[Federal Project Review \(Section 106\)](#)
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The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a division of the Idaho State Historical Society, has been in existence since 1971. The office functions on a grant from the National Park Service that for the past two years has been approximately \$467,000 per annum.

The professional staff consists of the State Historic Preservation Officer (who is also the State Archaeologist), the Deputy SHPO (who is also the Historic Preservation Review Officer), a Grants Manager, an Architectural Historian (who administers the National Register Program), a Historic Preservation Planner, a Staff Archaeologist/Education Coordinator, a Curator of Archaeology, an Archaeological Sites and Collections Coordinator, a Historic Sites Registrar, and an office manager/receptionist.

The SHPO program is divided into six major operational areas: the National Register of Historic Places program, State Historic and Archaeological Sites Inventories, Certified Local Government (CLG) grants management, Preservation Planning, Tax Incentives, and Federal Historic Preservation Project Review.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) was created in 1966 by the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. The purpose of the register to recognize and document buildings, structures, or places (historic and archaeological sites) of importance to history or prehistory. More than 900 Idaho properties are listed in the National Register. The Idaho NRHP program is a broad-based activity that helps identify and evaluate the state's cultural resources, nominates them to the National

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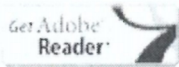
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Register when appropriate, and provides technical assistance and guidance for public-and private-sector individuals, organizations, and government agencies.

A complete list of Idaho sites on the National Register of Historic Places is available [online](#). New Idaho properties are listed in an [addendum](#). Both documents requires Adobe Acrobat Reader; a free copy can be [downloaded](#),



To access the National Register Database at the National Park Service, [click here](#).

Download, print, and fill out the [National Register Eligibility Questionnaire](#) for listing your property on the National Register of Historic Places. (Acrobat format)

State Historic and Archaeological Sites Inventories

The SHPO is the state clearinghouse for documentation from all recorded historic and archaeological sites in Idaho. The current inventory consists of more than 50,000 historic and archaeological site records. This information is available to students, researchers, and agencies for research purposes and to evaluate the potential for impacting cultural resources on public and private lands.

Certified Local Governments

The Certified Local Government program is a cost-effective local, state, and federal partnership for diverse communities taking action to preserve their unique historic character. This program provides valuable technical assistance and small grants to local governments seeking to keep for future generations what is important and significant from their past. The CLG Program responds to the needs of many different kinds of local communities and links them to the national historic preservation program established by the National Historic Preservation Act. In Idaho about \$45,000 is distributed yearly. Twenty-five communities are participating in the program. Read more about how to become a CLG in the [CLG program booklet](#).

For those CLGs interested in grants from the National Park Service, download the [Grants Handbook](#) booklet for application instructions and regulations for completing grants. (Acrobat format)

NEW!

For a current list of Certified Local Government contacts: [PDF format](#); [Word format](#).

Preservation Planning

Read a new report: [A View To the Future: A Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan for Idaho](#) (Acrobat format)

Determining the historical significance of a building or place requires an understanding of its context. Is the building of national, state, or local historical importance? Why is it important at any level? The development of the state's Historic Preservation Plan and the ongoing development of historic contexts helps justify historical significance.

Tax Incentive Program

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Another important program under the SHPO is the administration of the federal tax incentives available to private developers and owners who rehabilitate historic buildings for commercial purposes. In the past several years, this program has generated over \$20,000,000 of private construction investment and has aided in the preservation of more than fifty historic buildings in Idaho.

Federal Historic Preservation Project Review (Section 106)

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consult with the SHPO during the planning of any federal action that may endanger cultural resources. The role of the SHPO in federal project review is to reflect the interests of the State and its citizens in the preservation of Idaho's rich cultural heritage. This process provides an important planning function by assisting federal agencies in the recognition and protection of sites, buildings, and structures that are important to Idaho's past. Currently, the Idaho SHPO provides professional opinions on approximately 1,500 federal projects per year.

- [Archaeological Survey Report Form](#) (Word document)
- [ASI Archaeological Site Inventory Form](#) (Word document)
- [Guidelines for Documenting Archaeological and Historical Surveys](#) (Word document)
- [Guidelines for Evaluating Cultural Properties](#) (Word document)
- [Determination of Eligibility Form](#) (Word document)
- For guidance on the Section 106 Review Process, [click here](#).
- [Photographic Standards for Archaeological and Historic Sites Inventory Forms and National Register Nominations](#)
- [State, Federal, and Tribal](#) cultural resources contacts (Acrobat format)

Other Functions

An adjunct program within the SHPO is the **Archaeological Survey of Idaho (ASI)**, created by legislative action in 1992. The purpose of this body is to maintain the archaeological database, serve as a clearinghouse for all archaeological site reports, and maintain archaeological collections for the state as well as promote archaeological research, publication, and education. This program has satellite offices at the University of Idaho and Idaho State University. A small fraction of the NPS grant is used to maintain the archaeological database at the three facilities.

The SHPO also sponsors [Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month](#) every year. During the month of May, the public is treated to a wide range of activities related to Idaho's ancient and more recent past.

Other historic preservation links:

NEW!

Learn about the activities of [Preservation Idaho](#): The Idaho Historic Preservation Council, including their annual "[Orchids and Onions](#)" awards program. (Nominations for 2006 are due April 7.)

Read about the [Tolo Lake Mammoths](#).

The National Park Service's Heritage Preservation Services has a 15-program website designed to help identify, evaluate, protect, and preserve historic properties nationwide. <http://www2.cr.nps.gov>

Learn more about the National Register through their publications. Some bulletins are available on the Web, and paper copies of all Register publications can be obtained by mailing in the order form.
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrpubs.html>

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